

Application No. 10/065,757
Attorney Docket No. 124400

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-23 and 25-31 are allowed. The Applicant notes that the cover sheet for the Notice of Allowability states that claims 1-10, 12 and 25-31 were allowed. However, page 2 of the Detailed Action mailed with the Notice of Allowability states "Claims 1-10, 12-23 and 25-31 are allowed." (April 15, 2004 Notice of Allowability, page 2.) In addition, the undersigned contacted Examiner Thomas via telephone on April 28, 2004 to confirm the typographical error on the Notice of Allowability. Examiner Thomas confirmed that claims 1-10, 12-23 and 25-31 were allowed.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiners allowance of these claims and respectfully submits the following Comments on the Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Reasons for Allowance may potentially import interpretations into the claims in relation to the prior art that are unnecessarily limited and may place unwarranted interpretations upon the claims.

Such a characterization of the claims in view of the prior art may not properly take into account the Applicant's claimed invention as reflected in the claims, the specification and the prosecution history of the present application. Applicant believes that the claims, the specification, and the prosecution history in their entirety provide an adequate basis for the allowability of the claims.

Additionally, specific parts of the Examiner's reasons for allowance may pertain to limitations appearing in some of the claims, but not others of the claims. The

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Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has thoroughly examined the claims, recognized the limitations appearing or not appearing in each of the claims, and properly found the claims to be allowable based on the record.

More specifically, with regard to claims 3-6 and 20, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest elements of the claims, specifically a low-dose pre-shot having a dose of 1 to 4 percent, less than 4 percent, or less than 10 percent of the full-dose exposure. In addition, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest an x-ray system including x-ray imaging parameters where the imaging parameters vary between a low-dose pre-shot and a full-dose exposure. In addition, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest x-ray imaging parameters that are varied according to one of patient size and anatomical view.

With regard to claims 7-10 and 21-23, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply the automatic or remote control of the x-ray system. The Applicant also respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply the low-dose pre-shot generating an image within one or five seconds.

With regard to claims 12-13 and 25-26, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply a low-dose imaging sequence occurring at a frame rate at any 5 frames per second or 1 frame every 5 seconds.

With regard to claims 14-16 and 28-29, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply x-ray images in an x-ray imaging sequence

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being sub-sampled prior to processing. In addition, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply x-ray images in an x-ray imaging sequence being sub-sampled prior to processing, where the sub-sampling includes binning or sparsing.

With regard to claims 14-16 and 28-29, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply x-ray images in an x-ray imaging sequence being sub-sampled prior to processing. In addition, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply x-ray images in an x-ray imaging sequence being sub-sampled prior to processing, where the sub-sampling includes binning or sparsing.

With regard to claims 17 and 30, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references teach or imply automatically analyzing a low-dose image using a computer algorithm, where the computer algorithm employs image segmentation to determine positioning of a patient.

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CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of GTC, Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 13, 2004

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